

Daily
Nebraskan
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University of Nebraska-Lincoln

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Keep searching

Committee has wasted time and money

Fifteen months and \$200,000 later, one candidate for university president drops out and another's administration is discovered to have been under censure.

What exactly was the Presidential Search Committee doing all that time?

Obviously, not searching very hard, because Tuesday Gene Budig, University of Kansas chancellor, withdrew his name from consideration.

Budig said in a statement that he could not leave KU until "closure has been reached on a series of significant matters which will impact KU's long-term future."

And another candidate, Robert Dickeson, president of the University of Northern Colorado at Greeley, was found to have been under censure by the National American Association of University Professors for firing 47 faculty in 1982.

The UNL and UNO presidents of the local AAUP issued a statement that said AAUP chapter presidents at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and the University of Nebraska at Omaha were upset when they found that UNC, under Dickeson, was censured in 1984 by the national AAUP.

Where have all the good candidates gone? Or maybe we should ask where the search committee was looking for all the good candidates?

In October, the candidate list was narrowed to seven and Duane Acklie, search committee co-chairman, said the Chicago-based consulting firm Heidrick and Struggles Inc. was rechecking the references and looking at a secondary list of references.

Don Blank, regent chairman and search committee co-chairman, said the candidates' employment records also would be reviewed.

"The committee takes its mission very seriously. It's not just a matter of 'X' number of candidates. We want to send forward a list of the most qualified candidates to the regents."

Budig and the search committee should have gotten their signals straight a long time ago.

And the committee also should have known about the censure against Dickeson a long time ago.

Let's hope the university doesn't suffer because the search committee failed to do its homework.

— Darcie Wiegert
for the Daily Nebraskan

If males could conceive, arguments wouldn't occur

I'm fortunate. I was educated to believe that I have sexual choices and have been able to practice those choices. I learned about pregnancy, childbirth, birth control and abortion issues before I was ever to encounter these issues on the political and personal front of my own life. I am privileged to have been born into a family that valued education, thus, I cultivated a knowledge of the world and a desire to read at a young age. I am one of the lucky ones. I have not been oppressed as a member of my race because I was born white. I've lived with white privilege in a racist culture.

Recently, many men have written numerous letters to the Daily Nebraskan professing the "immorality" of abortion. I would like to ask them to try to step outside their white, male, middle-class values and attempt to empathize with people who are different from themselves in regarding the issue of abortion. The ultra-conservative stance on abortion is according to the book "Women, Culture and Politics" by Angela Y. Davis, "yet another offensive against the welfare of black women and others who suffer from racism, sexism and economic exploitation."

I'm fortunate that because of my white, middle-class privilege, I've been able to make choices so as not to be

faced with the decision of whether or not to have an abortion. Not all women receive the education that proffers them the ability to make such choices before they are faced with such a serious decision as whether or not to have an abortion.

There are also countless victims of rape and incest who are forced into dangerous abortive situations because of poverty and because of unwillingness on the part of the government to respond to the needs of crime victims, especially poor women in this country.

The real truth about the abortion debate is this: If men were able to conceive, abortion would not only be legal, it wouldn't be a political or moral issue. Perhaps our focus on reproductive freedom should be on male sexuality. If men continually cry out about the "immorality" of abortion, then perhaps we need to start penalizing men for the countless number of unwanted pregnancies. After all, women cannot impregnate themselves.

Perhaps too, our focus should be on whether men should be allowed to remain unvasectomized after begetting unplanned children.

Judith Alexander
senior
English/music



Dream mirrors controversy

Reported plagiarism shouldn't diminish King's civil rights feats

I was shot to death in the year 2009 just outside my lavish Capitol Hill apartment. The year before my death I won a Pulitzer Prize for a series I wrote on an AIDS victim who found a vaccine for the virus that claimed the lives of one-fourth of the nation's citizens.

Upon publication of the piece, legislation at the local and national levels expanded AIDS victims' rights, which had been severely restricted in the 21st century.

About 22 years after my death, in the year 2031, a bunch of historians were hired to help compile information for my biography — the one my son was working on.

While doing some of their digging at my old alma mater, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, the historians found out that I had copied from my roommate the answers to a take-home test for my art history silk screening course.

Controversy shook the media; my name appeared in the headlines. I had plummeted from hero to villain. Society was disappointed.

But at least I'm dead, so I don't have to worry about the consequences of those actions. It's too late. And more importantly, my parents have taken the eternal dirt nap as well, so they won't be disappointed or embarrassed.

Sometimes when I'm sitting in a Perkins late at night, I get caught up in my own daydreaming. I can't help it.

Thanks to journalists, historians and all sorts of nosy writers, America's dead heroes are quickly losing their heroic status.

Former President John F. Kennedy wasn't spared.

John Lennon wasn't spared.

editorial POLICY

Editorial columns represent the opinion of the author. The Daily Nebraskan's publishers are the regents, who established the UNL Publica-

letter POLICY

The Daily Nebraskan welcomes brief letters to the editor from all readers and interested others.

Letters will be selected for publication on the basis of clarity, originality, timeliness and space available. The Daily Nebraskan retains the right to edit all material submitted.

Readers also are welcome to sub-

And now, Martin Luther King Jr. The editor of King's papers acknowledged Friday that parts of King's doctoral dissertation and other academic papers from his student years appeared to have been plagiarized.

According to Clayborne Carson,



Lisa
Donovan

the historian who is heading the King Papers Project, analysis of the papers uncovered passages taken from other sources without attribution throughout King's writings as a theology student at Boston University.

King is guilty under Webster's strictest definition of plagiarism: "To take (ideas, writings, etc.) from (another) and pass them off as one's own."

The question here is whether King did it intentionally or by omission, or if it matters at all.

Unfortunately, we can't bring back from the dead one of the greatest leaders of the 1960s civil rights movement to ask him if he knowingly plagiarized. So maybe the whole thing should be put to rest.

Before students and faculty members pick up their pens to write a letter to the Daily Nebraskan for advocating plagiarism, read on.

David Garrow, a professor of political science at the City University of New York and a member of the King Papers Project, said that the discovery could affect King's public image.

"... this serious an offense really does alter how we have to evaluate him, especially in the context of telling 10-year-olds who they should look up to," Garrow told The New York Times.

It could affect King's reputation, but it shouldn't. As a society we tend to put mere mortals like King on some sort of deity level. When they don't prove themselves to be God-like (i.e., they make mistakes) our images come crashing down.

It is truly hard to find a correlation between King's alleged misdeeds as a theology student and his work as a champion of the civil rights and the Vietnam peace movements.

It would be a shame to say that since he plagiarized some academic papers, it no longer matters that he played an instrumental role in successfully boycotting segregated transportation in Montgomery, Ala., during the late 1950s. It would be ridiculous to say that his apparent plagiarism eclipses the fact that he was arrested several times as well as had his house bombed for conducting campaigns against racism in the South during the 1960s.

Maybe King forgot to add footnotes to a section of his writings. We'll assume that he did it on purpose.

If King did purposely plagiarize, then all of his work as a civil rights leader doesn't negate those actions. However, if he did intentionally plagiarize, that shouldn't ruin his credibility as a role model for America's youth or Americans in general.

The "if" still remains, but it shouldn't.

Donovan is a senior news-editorial major, the Daily Nebraskan editorial page editor and a columnist.

tions Board to supervise the daily production of the paper.

According to policy set by the re-

gents, responsibility for the editorial content of the newspaper lies solely in the hands of its students.

Whether material should run as a letter or guest opinion, or not to run, is left to the editor's discretion.

Letters and guest opinions sent to the newspaper become the property of the Daily Nebraskan and cannot be returned. Letters should be typewritten.

Anonymous submissions will not be considered for publication. Letters should include the author's name, year in school, major and group affiliation, if any. Requests to withhold names will not be granted.

Submit material to the Daily Nebraskan, 34 Nebraska Union, 1400 R St., Lincoln, Neb. 68588-0448.